

TRUSCOTT FANTAIL LAUNCH  
Michigan Maritime Museum  
South Haven  
Van Buren County  
Michigan

HAER MI-411  
*MI-411*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

### TRUSCOTT FANTAIL LAUNCH

HAER No. MI-411

Location: Michigan Maritime Museum Collections, South Haven, Michigan

Date of Construction: Circa 1905

Rig/Type of Craft: Recreational Launch

Material: Wood

Length: 21 ft. 1 in.

Beam: 5 ft. 10-1/2 in.

Propulsion: Gasoline 4 cylinder flathead engine and single screw

Builder: Unknown, believed to be built by Truscott

Present Owner: Michigan Maritime Museum

Present Use: Museum Artifact

Significance: Recreational boating under power increased during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Vacationers from Chicago traveled to South Haven and other Michigan destinations to enjoy the cooler temperatures and cleaner waters. Power launches were built for wealthy families or were rented or used as water taxis to ferry people from resorts along the lakes and rivers. This launch is typical of a prolific type of craft throughout the United States. This launch is believed to be built by the J. W. Truscott Boat Company in Benton Harbor, Michigan. The four-cylinder engine currently in the boat is a Gray Marine, and almost certainly is not the original, which may have been a Truscott Pierce engine that the company built early in the 20th Century.

Historian: Michigan Maritime Museum